

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 MC-02 DODE-00 EB-11 NSAE-00

RSC-01 TRSE-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 COME-00 AID-20 EUR-25

RSR-01 /099 W

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R 311845Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6920

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 1498

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, HA

SUBJECT: GOH INTEREST IN PURCHASE OF ARMORED VEHICLES

REF: STATE 170695

1. IN MEETING WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY ADRIEN RAYMOND  
AUGUST 30 I NOTED THAT REQUEST TO PURCHASE FOUR CADILLAC  
GAGE COMMANDO ARMORED CARS HAD BEEN BASED ON NEED TO REPLACE  
OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT ON HAND. I SUGGESTED THAT GOH PROCEED  
WITH ACCEPTANCE OF THESE FOUR CARS AND POSTPONE CONSIDERATION  
OF REQUEST TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL TWO CARS PENDING RE-  
EXAMINATION OF GOH MILITARY REQUIREMENTS FOLLOWING RECEIPT  
OF THE FOUR CARS AND OF AMMUNITION AND EQUIPMENT ORDERED  
TO REPLACE PALACE FIRE LOSSES. I POINTED OUT THAT CHANGING  
THE ORDER FROM FOUR TO SIX RAISED QUESTIONS OF GOH MILITARY  
PRIORITIES AND MIGHT HOLD UP ACTION ON THE ORIGINAL FOUR  
CARS.

2. THIS ARGUMENT SEEMED TO MAKE SENSE TO RAYMOND WHO  
TELEPHONED PRESIDENT JEAN CLAUDE DUVALIER. PRESIDENT  
DUVALIER SAID THAT HE HAD ALREADY CONTRACTED WITH  
CADILLAC GAGE FOR SIX CARS AND THAT HE NEEDED THE  
ADDITIONAL TWO CARS FOR THE LEOPARDS. HE ADDED AN  
EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT  
IN THE PAST AND SAID HE HOPED WE WOULD UNDERSTAND AND MEET  
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HIS REQUIREMENT FOR THE TWO ADDITIONAL CARS. I REPLIED

THROUGH RAYMOND THAT I WOULD REPORT HIS VIEWS BUT THAT I  
COULD NOT PREDICT THE OUTCOME IN VIEW OF THE SITUATION  
DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH ONE ABOVE.

3. PRESIDENT'S DECISION, REPORTED P-AU-P 1387 TO DEAL  
DIRECTLY THROUGH COLONEL DORCE IN WASHINGTON ON MILITARY  
ASSISTANCE MATTERS PUTS EMBASSY IN A DELICATE POSITION.  
IF DIRCE ASKS WASHINGTON FOR SOMETHING IN THE NAME OF THE  
PRESIDENT AND WASHINGTON GIVES HIM THE IMPRESSION IT IS  
TURNING HIM DOWN BECAUSE OF EMBASSY RECOMMENDATIONS,  
EMBASSY'S GOOD RELATIONS WITH GOH WILL DETERIORATE QUICKLY  
AND DRASTICALLY. THAT BEING SAID, OUR RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOLLOW:

4. RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. THAT STATE/DEFENSE REITERATE TO COLONE DORCE  
DESIRABILITY OF ACCEPTING FOUR CARS AND CONCLUDING  
AMMO/EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT BEFORE ADDRESSING PROBLEM  
OF OTHER TWO CARS.

B. THAT STATE/DEFENSE REPLY GENTLY TO IMPLIED THREAT  
TO TRANSFER ORDER TO FRENCH FIRM THAT FINANCIAL OUTLAY  
OF THAT SORT TO FRENCH COMPANY AT TIME U.S. GIVING  
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO HAITI MIGHT RAISE ALL SORTS OF  
QUESTIONS.

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